

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed February 6, 2004. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

A. The Outstanding Rejection

The outstanding Office Action rejects claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Schliekelmann, et al. ("Schliekelmann," U.S. Pat. No. 6,100,994). Applicant notes that the same rejection was made against claims 1-25 in the previous Office Action (paper no. 2). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As described in Applicant's previous Response (paper no. 4) Schliekelmann discloses a reproduction device that comprises a display panel 201. Schliekelmann, column 5, lines 54-55. The display panel comprises a display screen 210 of the "LCD-color type" the size of which is "comparable to an A5-sheet". Id. at column 6, lines 10-14. The Schliekelmann display screen is used to provide multiple layers of information to the user *at the same time*. As described by Schliekelmann:

What is important here is that *the selection of the level always remains visible on the display screen 210*, so that the user always knows the level at which he is inputting settings. This prevents the user from losing sight of the mode.

Schliekelmann, column 6, lines 55-58 (emphasis added). Examples of such operation are shown in the figures. For instance, Figure 2 shows a "Copy" button that is presented to the user in an initial screen of the display. When that button is selected, settings

pertinent to copying are shown in the display *without removal of the "Copy" button*. Therefore, the user's selections only result in features being added to the displayed screen, *not replacement of the screen with another screen*.

B. Discussion

As noted in Applicant's previous Response, not every feature of the claimed invention is represented in the Schliekelmann reference. Applicant discusses Applicant's independent claims in the following.

1. Independent Claim 1

Applicant's independent claim 1 provides as follows (emphasis added):

1. A method for communicating information to a device user, comprising:
 - presenting a textual indication to the user regarding a high level aspect of a device functionality;
 - receiving an input from the user regarding the device functionality; and
 - replacing the presented textual indication with a graphical indication*** to the user regarding a low level aspect of the device functionality.

Accordingly, Applicant's claim 1 requires presenting a textual indication to a user regarding a high level aspect of a device functionality and then *replacing that textual indication with a graphical indication* regarding a low level aspect of the same device functionality. As was identified in Applicant's previous Response, Schliekelmann neither teaches nor suggests such an arrangement. In fact,

Schliekelmann actually teaches the *opposite*: leaving an existing textual indication displayed and adding further features to it in the display.

The Office Action does not address the “replacing” limitation whatsoever. While, the statement of the rejection as to independent claim 1 (as well as each other independent claim) expresses that Schliekelmann teaches “presenting” a graphical indication, that is not what is presently claimed by Applicant (note that term “presenting” was replaced with the “replacing” language in the previous Response).

The “Response to Arguments” section of the Office Action similarly is silent as to the “replacing” limitation. In fact, that section identifies portions of the Schliekelmann disclosure that underscore Applicant’s position that Schliekelmann teaches the opposite of replacing a textual indication as to a high level aspect of device functionality with a graphical indication regarding a low level aspect of device functionality.

The “Response to Arguments” section first identifies an excerpt from column 11, lines 13-21, which identifies Schliekelmann’s Figure 21. That figure shows a printing mode page 210 that is displayed when a “print” button 2101 is selected. As is apparent from Figure 21, the “print” button (i.e., the high level aspect of a device functionality) is still visible (and therefore not “replaced”) even when printing options (i.e., the low level aspects of the print functionality) are displayed at the bottom of the screen.

In addition, the “Response to Arguments” section identifies an excerpt from column 8, lines 31-54, which describes Figures 4-5. Each of those figures show copy mode pages 210. In each page, various lower level functions are shown while the “copy” button (i.e., the high level aspect of a device functionality) is still visible (and therefore not “replaced”).

From the above, it is clear that Schliekelmann, despite generally providing a graphical user interface for a reproduction device, fails to anticipate Applicant's claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1, and the claims that depend from claim 1, are allowable over Schliekelmann.

2. Independent Claim 9

Applicant's independent claim 9 provides as follows (emphasis added):

9. (Previously Presented) A system for communicating information to a device user, comprising:

means for presenting a textual indication to the user regarding a high level aspect of a device functionality;

means for receiving an input from the user regarding the device functionality; and

means for replacing the textual indication with a graphical indication to the user regarding a low level aspect of the device functionality.

From the above, it is clear that independent claim 9 requires means for presenting a textual indication regarding a high level aspect of a device functionality and means for same *replacing that textual indication with a graphical indication* as to a low level aspect of the same device functionality. As noted above, Schliekelmann does not anticipate any such replacement. Therefore, independent claim 9 is allowable over Schliekelmann for at least the same reasons that independent claim 1 is allowable over Schliekelmann.

3. Independent Claim 17

Applicant's independent claim 17 provides as follows (emphasis added):

17. (Previously Presented) A system, including computer readable media, for communicating information to a device user, comprising:

logic configured to present a textual indication to the user regarding a high level aspect of a device functionality;

logic configured to receive an input from the user regarding the device functionality; and

logic configured to replace the textual indication with a graphical indication to the user regarding a low level aspect of the device functionality.

From the above, it is clear that independent claim 17 requires logic configured to present a textual indication regarding a high level aspect of a device functionality and logic configured to *replace the textual indication with a graphical indication* as to a low level aspect of the same device functionality. As noted above, Schliekelmann does not anticipate any such replacement. Therefore, independent claim 17 is allowable over Schliekelmann for at least the same reasons that independent claim 1 is allowable over Schliekelmann.

4. Independent Claim 25

Applicant's independent claim 25 provides as follows (emphasis added):

25. (Previously Presented) A peripheral device, comprising:

a control panel having a display screen with which information is presented to a device user; and

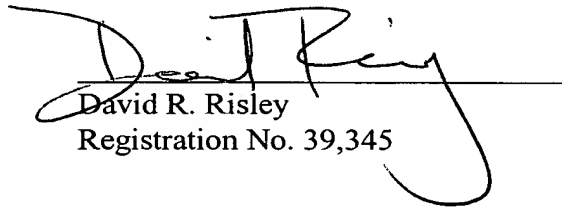
an information communication module adapted to present device setting buttons containing textual indications as to the type of setting to which each button pertains, and further adapted to *replace the textural indications with a graphical indication* as to the setting to which a button pertains upon selection of the button via the control panel.

From the above, it is clear that independent claim 25 requires an information communication module adapted to present device setting buttons containing textual indication as to the type of setting to which each button pertains and to *replace the textural indications with a graphical indication* as to the same setting. As noted above, Schliekelmann does not anticipate any such replacement. Therefore, independent claim 25 is allowable over Schliekelmann for at least the same reasons that independent claim 1 is allowable over Schliekelmann.

CONCLUSION

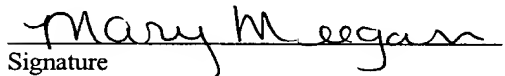
Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


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3-30-04


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